

## **1998 California Dairy Industry At a Glance**

### **Production**

- ❖ California leads the nation in total milk production.
- ❖ California surpasses the next highest state, Wisconsin, by approximately 4.8 billion pounds and the third highest state, New York, by approximately 15.9 billion pounds.
- ❖ California produced approximately 17.5 percent of the nation's milk.
- ❖ California ranked sixth in milk production per cow with an annual average of 19,442 pounds. The U.S. average was 17,192 pounds per cow.
- ❖ Grade A milk accounted for 98.5 percent of total production.
- ❖ California's five leading counties in milk production were Tulare (22.0%), Merced (12.8%), San Bernardino (11.5%), Stanislaus (10.6%), and Riverside (8.1%). These counties accounted for 65.0 percent of California's total milk supply.

### **Farms**

- ❖ California had 1.4 million milk cows, establishing it as the second leading state in the nation.
- ❖ There were 2,246 dairy farms in California.
- ❖ The average dairy farm in California has 624 cows.
- ❖ California dairies are among the lowest in the cost of producing milk in the nation.
- ❖ Feed cost represented approximately 50% of the total milk production costs.
- ❖ The annual average price paid to producers F.O.B. plant was \$15.02 per cwt.
- ❖ Approximately 12,700 people are employed on dairy farms, including hired and family labor.

### **Processing**

- ❖ California ranked number 1 in the U.S. in the production of butter, nonfat dry milk, and frozen products. It ranked second in cheese and yogurt production.
- ❖ California produced 45.1 percent of the nation's nonfat dry milk and 27.3 percent of the nation's butter.
- ❖ Whole milk cheddar and whole milk mozzarella constituted about 78.3 percent of the cheese produced in California.
- ❖ Approximately 14,100 people are employed by dairy product processing firms.